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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

8 DANIEL G SZMANIA,

9 Plaintiff,

10 v.

11 COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL  
12 SECURITY,

13 Defendant.

Case No. C20-6228 MLP

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

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15 Plaintiff filed a complaint in this matter on December 21, 2020, appealing the denial of  
16 his application for Social Security disability insurance benefits. (Dkt. # 1.) The Court admitted  
17 Freddrick Effinger to appear *pro hac vice* on Plaintiff's behalf with Maren Bam as local counsel.  
18 (Dkt. # 4.) Plaintiff filed his opening brief on May 21, 2021 (dkt. # 13) and the Commissioner  
19 filed its responsive brief on June 17, 2021 (dkt. # 14.) Plaintiff's optional reply brief was due  
20 July 2, 2021, however, no brief was filed. (*See* dkt. # 12.)

21 On June 24, 2021, the Court received an email from Plaintiff expressing dissatisfaction  
22 with his legal representation. In his email, Plaintiff represents that his counsel has, among other  
23 things, failed to return his phone calls and emails. Plaintiff also represents that counsel stipulated  
to an extension of time for the Commissioner to file its answer over his objection. Plaintiff, who

1 copied all parties on the email, gave notice that he was terminating Mr. Effinger as his counsel  
2 and requested Ms. Bam file a motion to withdraw. Plaintiff also requests that the Court allow  
3 him to proceed *pro se* and enter a 60-day stay so that he can attempt to find new counsel.  
4 Plaintiff attached both a motion to proceed *pro se* and a proposed order of substitution to proceed  
5 *pro se* to his email because he is unable to file the pleadings on the docket as an e-filer. Plaintiff  
6 subsequently left a voicemail with the Court articulating the same concerns and requesting the  
7 same relief. To date, neither Mr. Effinger nor Ms. Bam have filed motions to withdraw or any  
8 other pleadings addressing the issues raised by Plaintiff.

9 While the Court does not accept filings through email or voicemail, and therefore will not  
10 address Plaintiff's requests to proceed *pro se* or for a stay in this matter, the Court is concerned  
11 about the status of Plaintiff's representation. Accordingly, the Court orders Plaintiff's counsel to  
12 submit a status report by no later than July 14, 2021, informing the Court whether they still  
13 intend to represent Plaintiff in this matter, and if not, why they have not filed motions to  
14 withdraw. Failure to do so may result in sanctions.

15 Dated this 6th day of July, 2021.

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18 MICHELLE L. PETERSON  
19 United States Magistrate Judge  
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